2007-05404/

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Ontario Women's Directorate

NEWS RELEASE

August 31, 2007

MCGUINTY GOVERNMENT INVESTS IN PRE-EMPLOYMENT TRAINING AND SUPPORTS FOR VULNERABLE WOMEN

Supporting Women's Economic Independence and Preventing Violence Against Women

WINDSOR – Minister Responsible for Women's Issues Sandra Pupatello today announced more than $4.6 million to help low-income and abused/at-risk women develop new skills to gain economic independence and live free from the threat of violence in their own homes.

"The McGuinty government is investing in efforts to improve the lives of women across the province," said Pupatello at the Windsor Women Working with Immigrant Women (WWWWIW) centre where she made the announcement. "We are assisting women to move from crisis to stability by giving them the necessary supports and tools to rebuild safe and secure lives for themselves and their children."

The Investing in Women's Futures program is funding 26 women's centres across the province to help low-income and abused/at-risk women receive pre-employment training and supports, entrepreneurial skills, supportive counselling and safety planning. With this funding, more than 10,000 women will be helped over two years.

The Windsor Women Working with Immigrant Women is receiving $180,000 funding over two years through the Investing in Women's Futures program. The WWWWIW reaches out to isolated immigrant and visible minority low-income women to provide information, referral and other support programs and services to develop women's economic independence.

From left to right: Bruce Crozier, MPP for Essex; Padmini Raju, Executive Director of Windsor Women Working With Immigrant Women (W5); Scholastica Lyanga, Coordinator of W5's Investing in Women's Futures program; Minister Responsible for Women's Issues Sandra Pupatello; Domine Rutayisire, President of W5 Board of Directors; Abirami Subapriya, graduate of W5's IWF program; Anto Mwenge Masiya, W5 Administrative Assistant and Sungee John, past president of W5's Board of Directors at an announcement to help low-income and abused or at-risk women develop skills to gain economic independence and live free from the threat of violence in their own homes.

"With this funding, we can better support our clients to build their self-esteem and to get the training they need to help them become independent and less vulnerable to poverty and abuse," said Padmini Raju, Executive Director of WWWWIW. "We're grateful to the Ontario government for making this possible."

This is just one more example of how the McGuinty government, working together with community partners, has achieved results in preventing violence against women and supporting women's economic independence:

- Providing $4.6 million since 2003 through the Women in Skilled Trades program to help low-income women develop new skills in the skilled trades

- Investing $2.7 million over two years to provide information technology training and $4 million over two years to 10 Employment Training Pilot Programs for low-income women
- Spending more than $190 million annually to provide violence against women services across government. This includes more than $82 million in new funding over four years to the Domestic Violence Action Plan to provide better community-based supports, implement public education and training strategies, strengthen Ontario's criminal and family justice systems response, and provide better access to French-language services

"We are pleased to support women's centres and thank them for the important work they do in the community," said Minister Pupatello.

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Contacts:
Kathleen Murphy, Minister's Office, (416) 325-0362
Michel Payen-Dumont, Communications Branch, (416) 314-701

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Last Modified: September 6, 2007